



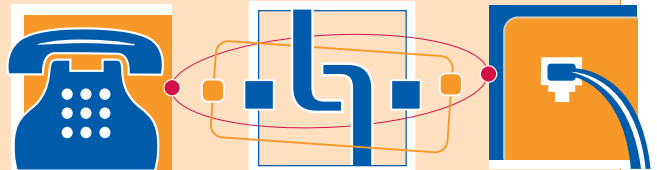
Telephone Assistance Programs in Indian Country



**The Enhanced Lifeline and
Link-Up assistance programs
make affordable telephone service
available to qualifying
South Dakotans
living on tribal lands.**

Even if you don't qualify for Enhanced Lifeline or Link-Up, chances are you know someone who does. Think about your family, neighbors and friends. Receiving a discount on local phone service might make a big difference in their life, especially if they are managing expenses on a limited income. Having affordable telephone service will give them – and you – peace of mind by knowing they can stay connected with a doctor's office, their child's school or emergency assistance when needed. Share this information about Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up.

Lifeline and Link-Up
connect for less



South Dakota
Public Utilities Commission

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
500 E. CAPITOL AVE. • PIERRE, SD 57501
www.puc.sd.gov • 1-800-332-1782

Staying connected to family, friends and businesses is an important part of life.

Having access to affordable telephone service for your home makes staying connected easier. If you live on tribal lands and meet specific requirements, you may qualify for two special programs – Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up – that help reduce the cost of telephone service so you can connect for less.

● **Enhanced Lifeline** helps you save a significant amount of money on your monthly phone bill. The discount applies to basic local telephone service on one line at your primary residence only. You may receive discounts of up to \$35 per month on basic monthly service. As a result, depending upon current rates charged by your telephone company, you may receive basic local phone service for as little as \$1 a month.

● **Enhanced Link-Up** provides a one-time discount for part of the connection or activation charge for new telephone service at your primary residence. The discount is up to 50 percent of the first \$60 of the installation fee. If your installation or activation fees are above \$60, you may receive an additional discount of up to \$70, with a total discount maximum of \$100.

You can also sign up for toll blocking or toll limitation service that either blocks or limits long-distance calls from your phone.

These programs are available to individuals who reside on tribal lands and meet the eligibility requirements listed to the right. Tribal lands are described as a reservation, defined as any federally-recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo or colony, and Indian Allotment.

Contact your local telephone company to apply for Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up. You can also contact the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for an application. Call 1-800-332-1782 or go to www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline on the Internet.



Lifeline and Link-Up have eligibility requirements. You may qualify if you participate in any of the following programs:

- Medicaid (example, Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- Tribal National School Lunch Program

You may also qualify if your household income is no more than 135 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines (see guidelines at www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline). You must provide proof of your income when applying under this option.



Important Information ■ ● ● ● ■

- If you qualify based on participation in a federal aid program, the phone must be in the name of the person who receives those benefits.
- Lifeline is available on only one line per household.
- Lifeline and Link-Up discounts cannot be applied to past due telephone bills.
- Once you are on Lifeline, you will be periodically asked to verify that you remain eligible. If you do not respond, the phone company is required to stop the discounts.
- Link-Up will not cover the cost of a phone or wiring your home.
- You must notify the telephone company when you no longer qualify for Lifeline.